

PROFILE

Professor FEI Xiaotong was born in Wujian District, Jiangsu Province in China. As a youth, he intended to specialize in medicine, but later decided that he would prefer to heal the diseases of society rather than that of individuals. He then entered Yanjing University and went on to the graduate school of Qinghua University, both in Beijing, to study sociology and anthropology. During his sociology course work on China, he did not indulge himself in books, but devoted himself to doing field work. Afterwards, he enrolled in the London School of Economics and studied under Professor B. Malinowski, the "Father" of social anthropology.

When *Peasant Life in China* (1939) was published, the book won him international esteem. The volume on the topic of Chinese rural villages is considered to be a classic. It was translated into Japanese shortly after the war ended and was very influential. Following the conclusion of World War II, he played a leading role in conducting research on minority nationalities as an ethnographer. However, in the midst of China's turbulent times, such as counter-rightist strife and the Cultural Revolution, his academic activities were impeded for almost twenty years. Once the Cultural Revolution drew to a close, Professor Fei regained his influential position in society and resumed his research activities. Since then, he has dedicated himself to the re-establishment of sociology along with the promotion of ethnology in China. Among his achievements are the establishment of the Chinese Sociological Association and the Institute of Sociology, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

After having studied sociological and anthropological methodology in the West, Professor Fei has created his own original methodology which incorporates China's traditional culture and regional diversities. For half a century he has introduced China's social changes to the world and has been valued as the most distinguished socialist and social anthropologist in China. Through the years, Professor Fei has staunchly believed that academic activities should be the catalyst for further development of the Chinese society and his unflinching commitment to this belief has contributed to Chinese modernization and development. Currently, Professor Fei is over eighty, yet he continues to actively pursue field work and play a key role in the field of anthropology in both name and deed. Presently, he is serving as Professor of the Institute of Central Nationalities, Professor of Beijing University and Emeritus President of the Chinese Sociological Association.

MAJOR WORKS

Peasant Life in China, London, 1939*, (Japanese translation, *Shina no Nomin Seikatsu* 1939) (*The Economy of Jiangcun*, Huainan, Jiangsu, 1986).

Lucun Nong Tian, Chongqing, 1943.

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Systems of Child Rearing, Shanghai, 1947 (Japanese translation, *Seiiku Seido*, 1985).

Rural China, Shanghai, 1947. *People and Society*, Beijing, 1981.

Toward a People's Anthropology, Beijing, 1981.*

Chinese Village Close-up, Beijing, 1983* (Japanese translation, *Chugoku Noson no Saimitsuga*, 1985).

Big Problems in Small Towns, (ed.) Huainan, Jiangsu, 1984.

Four Reports on Small Towns, Beijing, 1985 (Japanese translation, *Industrialization in Rural Jiangnan*, 1988).

Rural Development in China, Chicago, 1989.*

Growing Sociology, Tianjin, 1990.

Titles with asterisk are published in English.